

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Lithuanian SSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. The Kommunaras Agricultural Machine Factory in Vilnius
 2. The Chief Directorate for Land Amelioration
 3. Agriculture in the Lithuanian SSR

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. In Vilnius in early 1957 the Kommunaras Agricultural Machine Factory's foundry produced two tons of cast iron daily. Fourteen peat cutting combines per year were made. Three threshing units were produced in the last quarter of 1956 and plans for 1957 provided for the manufacture of two threshing machines per month.
2. In mid-1958 an 80,000 kilowatt power station was under construction in the Rumshiskes region (N 54-51, E 24,12) on the Neman River (N 55-18, E 21-23). A dam was to be built here which would raise the water level to 25 meters. The village of Rumshiskes was being evacuated in preparation for the flooding of the area. The inhabitants would be resettled on higher ground which was being drained to render it arable.
3. [redacted] reports on the Chief Directorate for Land Amelioration, the Kommunaras Agricultural Machine Factory in Vilnius, and agriculture in the Lithuanian SSR [redacted]

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Attachment 1: An eleven-page report on the Chief Directorate for Land Amelioration includes the departments and subordinate elements of the directorate, the budget, drainage program, details on drainage work in various regions, and personalities in the area. It is planned to replace the machine drainage stations now being liquidated with a drainage machine station in each rayon.

Attachment 2: A three-page report on the Kommunaras Agricultural Machine Factory in Vilnius includes data on the various departments, a few production figures, and numbers of machinery in operation.

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

Attachment 3: An eight-page report on agriculture in the Lithuanian SSR. Discussed in the report is the administrative organization of agriculture, collective and state farms (reaction to collectivization, economic conditions on the farms, migration to cities), and agricultural institutions.

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50X1-HUM

etc 3

SECRET

COUNTRY: USSR

SUBJECT: Agriculture in the Lithuanian SSR

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The Ministry of Agriculture

1. In the course of the reorganization of government institutions in the Lithuanian SSR following Stalin's death, the Ministries of Agriculture, State Farms, Agricultural Produce and Forestry were merged into a Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Produce (Ministerstvo Selskovo Khozyaystva I Zagatovok). In 1954-1955 this ministry was once again divided into the following four ministries:

- a. Ministry of Agriculture (Ministerstvo Selskovo Khozyaystva), located at 19 (?) Prospekt Stalina in Vilnius. This ministry dealt with kolkhozes, machine tractor stations (MTS), agricultural education and research.

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- 2 -

b. Ministry of State Farms (Ministerstvo Sovkhozov), located at 37 (?) Prospekt Stalina in Vilnius. It dealt exclusively with state farms.

c. Ministry of Agricultural Supplies (Ministerstvo Zagotovok), located on Ludos Giro Street (formerly Ulica Wilenska) in Vilnius. It collected agricultural quotas and made purchases of agricultural produce in general. It was subordinate to both the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR and to the corresponding All-Union Ministry in Moscow.

d. Ministry of Forestry (Ministerstvo Lesnovo Khozyaystva), which was in charge of forestry and certain branches of the timber industry, such as paper and cellulose. (No further details.

The Ministry of Fisheries (Ministerstvo Ribnovo Khozyaystva) was independent of the aforementioned ministries.

2. The Ministry of Agriculture was headed by the minister (V. M. Vazalinskas) and the following four deputies:

a. First Deputy Minister, who acted for the minister in the latter's absence and who was in charge of the general affairs of the ministry.

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- 3 -

- b. Deputy Minister in charge of MTS.
- c. Deputy Minister in charge of livestock.
- d. Deputy Minister in charge of personnel.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture consisted of directorates (Upravlenia) and inspectorates (Inspektsie), among them the following:

- a. Directorate for planning and statistics
- b. Financial directorate. Until the end of 1957, this directorate was headed by Abramskis (fmu).
- c. Directorate of MTS.
- d. Directorate of agricultural education.
- e. Directorate of personnel.
- f. Inspectorate of fodder and grazing land.
- g. Inspectorate of industrial crops.
- h. Inspectorate of grain.
- i. Inspectorate of fertilizers.
- j. Inspectorate of drainage.
- k. Scientific directorate, which was in charge of scientific research institutes and experimental stations.
- l. Directorate of supply
- m. Central Accounts Department

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- 4 -

4. For some time the Ministry of Agriculture administered the agricultural affairs of the entire republic without any intermediaries. This system proved inefficient, however, and in late 1955 the republic was divided into five agricultural regions, with centers in the former provincial towns, such as Vilnius, Kaunas, Shyanlyay, Panevezhis and Klaypeda. (The provinces having been abolished as administrative subdivisions, there remained only the 87 rayons.) In each of these towns an inspectorate was established, consisting of professional personnel who were in charge of the training program and who supervised the execution of the ministry's instructions; they had no administrative functions. To every two rayons, these inspectorates assigned four professional instructors: an agronomist, a zoo-technician, a mechanic, and an administrative expert.

Collectives and State Farms

5. In early 1957 there were about 2,000 collective farms, or kolkhozes, in the Lithuanian SSR. The larger units had been formed by merging many small kolkhozes. These large amalgamated kolkhozes did not always prove successful, and they were sometimes broken up again into small collectives. The aim, however, continued to be

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- 5 -

toward large units. Collectivization in the Lithuanian SSR was almost total, and the small percentage (two to three percent) of independent farmers who still existed in certain localities was due to unfavorable geographic conditions and other factors beyond the control of the authorities. Collectivization was carried out despite the opposition of the farmers, by means of physical and economic pressure. Almost all kulaks were exiled. As late as 1952-1953, ministry and Party officials were afraid to visit villages without an armed escort. Many kolkhoz chairmen and functionaries, especially Lithuanians, were murdered by bands of farmers hiding in the forests. By late 1957 tempers had evidently calmed down, for there were no signs of continued open resistance.

6. The economic situation of the kolkhozes and of their individual members improved somewhat as a result of the agricultural reforms introduced by Khrushchev. These reforms included: higher pay for a day's work (in Stalin's time members of a kolkhoz received very little for their work and subsisted mainly on the produce of their private land and on what they stole from the kolkhoz); raising the payment for agricultural quotas and produce in general; improvement and greater realism of planning methods; and increased

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- 6 -

independence of the kolkhozes. Despite everything, the kolkhoz members were still dissatisfied. The economic conditions, with the exception of a few exemplary kolkhozes, continued to be bad. Crops were very poor; even during some normal years, without a drought or any other natural calamity, crops were so small that the government had to supply seeds. In general, the yield did not reach 50 percent of the prewar quantity, despite the fact that it had been comparatively low even then.

7. Despite the passage of many years, the farmer who was employed on the kolkhoz continued to cherish the memory of the land he owned before it became part of a collective. The land might have been plowed numerous times and all signs of the former borders removed, yet he remembered what had been his and would even set up landmarks of his own to locate his former holding.

8. The number of people leaving the kolkhozes was large, especially among the youth who saw no future in them. Most men did not return to the kolkhozes after their compulsory military service and young girls preferred employment as servants in town, thereby acquiring permanent resident status there. Employment in industry was preferred to work in the kolkhoz or sovkhov.

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- 7 -

50X1-HUM

9. The Lithuanian SSR had a total of about 70 state farms, or sovkhoses. They were large units, consisting of 1,000-2,000 hectares or more. Conditions in the sovkhoses, although far from ideal, were better than those in the kolkhoses. Their organization was superior, they had experts and equipment of their own, and they were more independent, all of which resulted in greater efficiency and yields. The poorest sovkhoses, from an economic point of view, were located in the Klaypeda region, where, because of the people's opposition, the sovkhoses and kolkhoses were organized much later than in other parts of Lithuania.

10. The sovkhoses, too, suffered from a manpower shortage because people were leaving them for other work. The working norms were high and the pay was low. A worker in a sovkhos, doing hard physical labor such as plowing, earned an average of 8-12 rubles per day and although he was given living quarters in the sovkhos at a low rental, a small plot of private land and permission to keep a cow or other livestock, he preferred industrial work if given the chance.

Agricultural Institutions

11. The Agricultural Academy in Kaunas, a prewar institution,

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had departments in agronomy, agricultural economy, mechanics, soil amelioration, forestry, and a zootechnical department. The Kaunas Polytechnic Institute had a department for agricultural mechanics, which maintained high standards. There were a number of secondary agricultural schools (Tekhnikum) in Vilnius, Kaunas, and other cities, where the course of study lasted four years (five years in the universities); the students of these schools were required to have completed seven grades of elementary school. There were also several agricultural schools with a curriculum of one or two years.

12. The agricultural institute called "Nauchno-Isledovatel'skiy Institut Zemledelia" was located in Dotnuva near Kaunas. This institute, which was subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture, was the only one of its kind in the Lithuanian SSR. It included the former Vaka agricultural research institute, which was subordinate to the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and a zootechnical research institute in Balshogala. The Institute had a branch in Vaka and six experimental stations in Dotnuva, Yonishkelis (in the Shyaulyay area), Rumokay, and Samalishis (?) in the Klaypeda area.

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COUNTRY: USSR (Lithuanian SSR)
SUBJECT: The Komunaras Agricultural Machine Factory
in Vilnius

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1. The ~~Komunaras~~^M Agricultural Machine Factory (Zavod Selkhoz Mashin Komunaras), located at No. 6 Aguzono Street in Vilnius, employed from 300 to 350 workers, its production departments operating in three shifts. The plant was subordinate to the Ministry of Local and Fuel Industry (Ministerstvo Mestnoy Toplivnoy Promishlenosti).

2. The factory consisted of the following departments:

a. Foundry, with a Bessemer furnace which had a daily output of two tons of cast iron.

b. Tool-makers shop, which prepared dies and other tools for the internal requirements of the factory. This

SECRET

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27
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- 2 -

department contained six metal-working machines.

c. Mechanical department for the assembly of threshing machines (Kleveroterki). This shop contained about ten metal-working machines.

d. Mechanical department which was established in 1953 for the assembly of peat-cutting combines. This department contained about 20 metal-working machines.

3. The plant's output included the following:

a. Peat-cutting combine (Torfo-Kombain Mpok-4), a suspended (? Navesnoy) combine. Until 1955 the factory produced towed combines (Pritsernoy). The combine is attached to a DT-54 tractor produced by a Kharkov plant, but the tracks were exchanged for a wider type at the Komunaras Factory. The latter also installed reduction gears into the tractors for the operation of the combine. In late 1956 tractors which were already adapted to the above requirements began to arrive at the factory. During that year, 14 complete combines were turned out by the factory. At the beginning of 1957 the price of a combine was 40,000 rubles.

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22

- 3 -

b. Threshing machines (Molotilki Kleveroterki), copies of an old German model. Production started in 1956 and three units were turned out by the factory during the last quarter of that year. Plans for 1957 provided for the production of two threshing machines per month.

c. Spare parts for tractors and agricultural machines, on orders of the various machine tractor stations (MTS).

4. The following individuals head the Kommunaras Agricultural Machine Factory:

a. Shatas (fmu), who has been chief engineer since early 1956.

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b. Vladimir Yermakov, who has been general manager since 1950.

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COUNTRY: USSR (Lithuanian SSR)

SUBJECT: The Central Directorate for Land Amelioration 50X1-HUM

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Chief!
1. The ~~Central~~ Directorate for Land Amelioration (Glavnoe Upravlene Melioratsyy) is located 17 Prospekt Stalin (formerly Gedimina) in Vilnius. The directorate had been a department of the Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture until 1953, when it became directly subordinate to the Council of Ministers. In 1958 it was decided to transfer the Central Directorate once again to the Ministry of Agriculture.

2. The management of the Central Directorate of Land Amelioration consists of the director, the chief engineer, the deputy director for administration, the deputy director for

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SECRET

- 2 -

execution, and the scientific secretary. The directorate comprises the following departments:

- a. Secretariat and cadres
- b. Construction
- c. Mechanical work
- d. Technical affairs
- e. Accounts
- f. Planning and finance
- g. Exploitation

3. The following enterprises are subordinate to the Central Directorate:

- a. 20 drainage machinery station
- b. The Litmelvodstroy trust
- c. The Amelioration and Drainage Planning Institute
- d. A drainage research institute
- e. 12 territorial directorates of the Lithuanian

drainage networks.

4. The Litmelvodstroy Trust, which executes all drainage for the directorate, is located near the village of Garleva [Garlyava ? N 54-50, E 23-54], about 15 km from Kaunas [N 54-54, E 23-57].

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It has at its disposal heavy mechanical equipment as well as various drainage equipment.

5. The Amelioration and Drainage Planning Institute (Litgos-promeliovodstroy Litovskiy Gosudarstvenniy Institut Proyektirovaniya Meliorativnovo I Vodnovo Stroitelstva) of the directorate plans drainage projects throughout the country and tries to solve the problem of chronically flooded areas. The institute is located on Ozheshkenis Street in Kaunas, in the former Ministry of Justice building, and employs about 300 engineers and technicians.

6. More stress is laid on drainage and canalization in the Baltic republics than in any other part of the USSR because of the desire to raise the agricultural standards to their prewar level. With the organization of the kolkhoz system in the Lithuanian SSR, agricultural output has greatly decreased. In order to remedy this situation, it has become necessary to allocate additional areas for agriculture, as well as to safeguard the areas already under development from the excess of water which is present throughout Lithuania. A total of 25,000 square kilometers, i.e., 40 percent of the area of the republic, has to be drained and canalized.

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- 4 -

7. The budget for drainage and the actual area drained have been increasing from year to year, as can be seen from the following table:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Investments in roubles</u>	<u>Square km drained (total number)</u>	<u>Square km of underground drainage</u>
1951	12.5 million	150	5
1952	17.5 "	200	10
1953	24.0 "	240	20
1954	40.0 "	550	30
1955	50.0 "	450	50
1956	70.0 "	500	120
1957	130.0 "	550	250
1958	170.0 "	700	400

A total of 3,200-3,500 square kilometers was drained during the period 1945-1958. The area of underground drainage also has increased from year to year, despite the high cost entailed, 250,000 rubles per square kilometer.

8. In addition to providing more arable land, it is also necessary for the drainage authorities to protect cultivated areas from the autumn floods. These floods, caused by the heavy rain-fall at this season, often spoil the crops before they can be

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- 5 -

harvested. The farmers' attitudes towards drainage differ from area to area and depend on the degree to which they themselves are affected by floods. In some cases they are even prepared to share in the cost. The government's drainage program is carried out on the following conditions:

- a. During the first three years after drainage, the farmers are not required to hand over their compulsory delivery quotas.
- b. Surface drainage is entirely at government expense.
- c. Fifty percent of the cost of underground drainage must be paid by the farmers over a period of ten years.
- d. All drainage of privately owned land is at the farmer's expense.
- e. The first deep plowing after drainage is carried out with machinery belonging to the Central Directorate.

9. The following is a list of the drainage machine stations (MMS) in the Lithuanian SSR and their individual budgets (in rubles) for drainage in 1958:

a. Shilutskaya MMS	16,000,000
b. Panevezhskaya MMS	15,000,000
c. Vilniuskaya MMS	12,000,000

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50X1-HUM

- 6 -

d. Shaulayskaya MMS	13,000,000
e. Raseyniayskaya MMS	7,500,000
f. Shakiayskaya MMS	3,500,000
g. Keydanskaya MMS	5,000,000
h. Telshayskaya MMS	8,000,000
i. Yonishkiskaya MMS	4,500,000
j. Birfhayskaya MMS	4,000,000
k. Alituskaya MMS	3,500,000
l. Vilkovishskaya MMS	7,000,000
m. Mazheyskaya MMS	3,000,000
n. Retavskaya MMS	3,000,000
o. Rokishskaya MMS	8,000,000
p. Sheduvskaia MMS	3,000,000
q. Tauragskaya MMS	4,000,000
r. Ukmergskaya MMS	4,500,000

10. It is planned to replace the MTS now being liquidated with a drainage machine station in each rayon. Part of the heavy machinery of the MTS not required by the kolkhozes, such as excavators, trenchers, bulldozers, is to be transferred to the drainage stations. The large and important drainage stations,

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- 7 -

such as those in Panevezhis, Vilnius, Shaulyay and Shilute, are each equipped with the following:

- a. 16 excavators, with a shovel capacity of 0.5 cubic meters.
- b. 16 bulldozers
- c. 3 scrapers
- d. 15 S-80 tractors for stone clearance
- e. 3 graders
- f. 6 trenchers
- g. 8 DT-54 tractors
- h. 3 pile drivers
- i. 12 trucks
- j. One passenger car
- k. One jeep

11. The following are details on the main regions where major drainage work was carried out:

- a. The Shilute region. Any addition of water to the Neman River, whether through melting snow (in the spring) or rainfall (in the summer) raises the water level and floods the fields, especially in the delta. The best grazing lands

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- 8 -

of Lithuania are located in this area and, in accordance with the plans for agricultural development, cattle are to be raised here to increase dairy and meat production. Widespread drainage work is going on in this district to save the land. A pumping station was erected on the shore of the Neman River to divert the water of its tributaries. The first stage of the plan called for drainage of about 400 square kilometers; up to 1958, 30 square km had been drained and in that year an additional 50 were to be drained. The Party exerts great pressure to achieve the quick completion of this work.

b. The Kurshenai and Uzhventis regions. The soil of these regions is swampy due to inundations by the Venta River. The first stage of the plan calls for the drainage of some 140 square kilometers, and the Venta and its tributaries are being regulated. Stress is laid on reinforcing the river banks, as well as widening and deepening the bed, but no canalization is done in the area.

c. Extensive drainage work is also going on in the vicinity of Kaunas, and the plan for 1958 called for the drainage of 120 square kilometers. Part of this drained

SECRET

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SECRET

- 9 -

land is intended for use by the Agricultural Research Institute.

d. There is a plan for the drainage of areas in the vicinity of Rokishkis, Ionishkis and Klaypeda for the purpose of building civilian airfields there.

e. An 80,000 KW hydroelectric power station (GES) is under construction in the Rumshiskes region, on the Neman River. A dam will be built here which will raise the water level to 25 meters. The village of Rumshiskes is being evacuated in preparation for the flooding of the area; the inhabitants will be resettled on higher ground which is being drained to render it arable.

Personalities

12. The following personalities are reported:

a. Azarskis (fm) is deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Council of Ministers as well as chairman of the Sovnarkhoz.

b. Krishchunas (fm), director of the Litmelvodstroy

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- 10 -

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c. Maniushis (fmu) is first secretary of the Kaunas
city Party committee

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d. Jones Jona Velichka has been head of the Central
Directorate of Land Amelioration since 1954-1955.

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e. Vosilius (fmu), director of the drainage machinery
station in Shilute

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f. Zhamba (fmu), deputy director of the Central Direc-
torate of Land Amelioration

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50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

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